

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 23, 25-27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 38 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,531,997). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to apply a second electric field of the first polarity to the particles to maintain or stabilize a certain state. The Examiner relies on the fact that Gates discloses applying an opposite polarity of the first electric field to the particles in order to change the state of the display. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that since the certain state is changed “only by applying an opposite polarity of the first electric field,” it would be obvious to maintain the current state by applying a second field of the first polarity. However, at best, Gates suggests that maintaining the first electric field at the first polarity would be sufficient to maintain the current state. Applicant respectfully submits that such an assertion is not analogous to applying “a second electric field of the first polarity.” In contrast, the Examiner’s assertion is that Gates suggests maintaining the first electric field of the first polarity until a change of state is desired.

To clarify this feature, Applicant amended claim 1 to recite “a counter that supplies a count value to the controller for a first period, wherein the controller applies a

second electric field of the first polarity to the particles for maintaining or stabilizing the certain state after the first period.” In other words, the controller applies the second electric field after a certain time period has elapsed according to the count value. In contrast, Gates does not disclose “a counter that supplies a controller for a first period,” or applying “a second electric field of the first polarity...after the first period.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its corresponding dependent claims, should be in condition of allowance.

Applicant amended claims 23, 30, 33, and 36 to include similar structure as claim 1. Therefore, Applicant believes that the above remarks with respect to claim 1 also apply to claims 23, 30, 33, and 36. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23, 30, 33, and 36, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should be in condition of allowance.

Claims 3-8, 24, 32, 35, 37, 38, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,531,997) in view of Turner et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,480,182). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,531,997) in view of Turner et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,480,182) as applied to claim 24, and further in view of Okamoto (U.S. Pat. No. 6,094,184). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

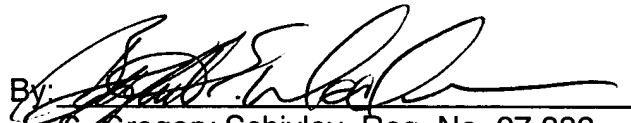
Applicant believes claims 1, 23, 30, 33, and 36 are in condition of allowance in light of the above amendments and remarks. Claims 3-8, 24, 32, 35, 37, 38, and 39 depend from claims 1, 23, 30, 33, and 36. Therefore, Applicant believes claims 3-8, 24, 32, 35, 37, 38, and 39 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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